



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELTON MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL DRUG, FIREARM CRIMES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Belton, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for violating federal firearms and narcotics laws.

Douglas Ryan Caruthers, 19, of Belton, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 18, 2003, **Caruthers** pleaded guilty to two counts of a federal indictment. Today, he was sentenced to five years in federal prison without parole for each of the two counts. The five-year sentences are to be served consecutively for a total of 10 years in federal prison.

By pleading guilty, **Caruthers** admitted that he knowingly possessed with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on June 18, 2003. **Caruthers** also admitted that he was in possession of a Victor .38 caliber stainless steel revolver, a Norinco SKS assault rifle and a Leinad Tech-Nine 9 mm assault weapon during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime on June 18, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person to possess a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Caruthers was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 9, 2003, in Kansas City. He was arrested on June 18, 2003, following a routine traffic stop by law enforcement officers at the King Superstore in Belton.

At the time of his arrest, **Caruthers** had an outstanding warrant. When law enforcement officers attempted the routine traffic stop, **Caruthers** initially fled the scene in his vehicle. He eventually fled his vehicle on foot and was apprehended.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Belton, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow